

WASHINGTON, DC – Representatives Gwen Moore (D-WI) and Patrick McHenry (R-NC) today introduced a resolution that could eventually lead to the creation of a National Hmong Recognition Day. The resolution requests that the President issue a proclamation calling for the US government and American citizens to observe such a day.

“The Lao-Hmong community’s contributions to our community and America are great and far reaching,” said Rep. Moore. “The time has come for the Lao-Hmong community to be recognized for all the tremendous contributions it has made to our democracy and our nation. The very name Lao-Hmong means ‘free people’ and we should honor the Hmong community for their commitment to the U.S. and its ideals.”

“Congresswoman Moore and I are grateful that so many Hmong have chosen to live and raise their families in our communities. Their participation and leadership in communities across this country continues to enrich America and all its citizens. The shared ideals of the Hmong and American people are a bond that will be formally recognized with this resolution,” said Rep. McHenry

The Laotian members of the Hmong tribe-- known for their warrior tradition, loyalty, and bravery—have a long history of supporting America and its military. From 1960 - 1975 the Hmong fought side by side with American soldiers against the North Vietnamese Army. In addition, over 35,000 Hmong lost their lives protecting US installations and military bases among other US interests. Furthermore, many more Hmong participated in tactical guerilla action, flew thousands of deadly combat missions, rescue missions and intelligent operations in support of the US Armed Forces during the Vietnam War.

Following the Vietnam War many Hmong were singled out by the Laotian government for retribution for assisting America. As a result many Hmong fled to Thailand and the US for refuge. In America, the Hmong community has and continues to have a positive impact on local communities. From Colorado to Wisconsin numerous states and municipalities have either recognized or sought to recognize the contributions of the Hmong.

“The actions taken by the Hmong for America cannot and should not be understated and the time for recognition is long overdue,” said Congresswoman Moore. “There is no way that America can repay the Hmong for the lives lost and the sacrifices made. However, we can recognize the Hmong for their sacrifices and make sure that their deeds are never forgotten.”

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